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Letters to the Editor

CIA Cybernetics

The CIA's unprecedented news release "Soviet Economic Problems Multiply" is a breach of almost universal intelligence practice. Once any intelligence agency reports to the public, rather than exclusively to the sovereign power of the Nation, it compromises both itself and also other Government agencies.

I conclude from the CIA press release that the CIA belittles the 'Soviet' economic threat because their GNP is only 47 per cent of ours and their growth rate is assumed to be down to 2.5 per cent, with a gold reserve of a mere \$2 billion and because of a severe shortage of wheat. How is it that this antagonist with the withering economy that has been failing for 40 years, has built and maintains armed forces that oblige us to expend \$50 billion annually to create a counterforce?

How is it that the atrophied Soviet economy has leapt into space first; has built 400 submarines in ten years along with an antisubmarine warfare fishing fleet of economic superiority; is far ahead in the creation of a dominant mercantile fleet; exports electrical power and petroleum; and penetrates the Pan American hemisphere? Has not all this been done without extended credits from the USA except for unrepaid lease lend?

Those who today forecast the failure of the totally centralized Soviet economy now base their argument upon the

lack of flexibility and the inability to manipulate the mass of decision making as the Soviet economy grows in both size and complexity. What these critics overlook is the evolution and application of Soviet cybernetics, the science of communication and control invented in the West and now widely and specifically applied to the Soviet economy in order to overcome their monumental data handling problem.

The politico-economic structure of the Soviet Union is ideally suited for electro-mechanical control systems in support of their economy. It is not only the CIA analysts who appear not to understand. I fear that some of our greatest thinkers have been unable to grasp the central fact that the Soviet Union has advanced because its rulers have learned how to apply the art—the science—of communication and control of the minds and actions of its 226,000,000 people.

This monolithic society seems to induce intellectual paralysis amongst our own thinkers rather than to stimulate innovations that will ensure our own superiority consistent with the freedoms upon which we insist.

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